

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property: Black River State Forest

Master Plan Year: 2017

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Area – Perry Creek Basin

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Perry Creek basin will provide a continuous supply of forest products. Aspen and oak will continue to be dominant cover types, with a potential increase in acreage and a wider diversity of age classes. Red pine plantations will be converted to native cover types with a preference for oak. Bottomland hardwood stands will continue to thrive and contribute to the aesthetic and ecological integrity of adjacent native community management areas. White pine acreage will increase slightly with more large, older trees present. The Perry Creek Basin will continue to be an attractive setting for people to recreate, especially along the Black River and Perry Creek corridors. Ample hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities will be available.</p> <p>Short-Term Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the diversity of cover types, improve the diversity of age classes for aspen and oak, and maintain jack pine when opportunities exist. 2. Maintain aesthetic appeal (such as large trees), forest health, native community habitat (small pockets of barrens, white pine-red maple swamp), and wildlife habitat. 3. Maintain aspen as a significant component in mixed or pure stands, and spread harvests over a slightly larger range of rotation as described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to diversify age classes. 4. Favor long-lived species where appropriate along interstate and state highways and the Black River corridor. 5. Manage bottomland hardwoods and pine stands in floodplain and lower terraces to compliment the native community qualities, such as large trees, found on Hawk Island and upstream at the confluence of Perry Creek with the Black River. 6. Plant open fields acquired through land acquisition with tree species suitable to the site
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>The entire area is managed using “active management” techniques and will be implemented following guidelines in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. The General Forest Management Prescriptions for each appropriate forest type apply to this management area.</p>

<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>Two timber sales established. Invasive species control included 29 acres with greater celandine, 15.6 acres of garlic mustard, nine acres of glossy buckthorn, and 0.3 acres of wild parsnip.</p> <p>1215 – This is a five-stand sale of which two stands are in the Perry Creek Forest Production area. This includes a 22-acre jack pine clearcut and a 12-acre white pine release with portions resembling an oak seed tree. The goal in the clearcut is to regenerate a mixed Jack pine stand and the goal in the release is to maintain the longer lived white pine and oak and regenerate the shorter-lived species. STO #1, #2, and #4</p> <p>1227 – This is a small nine-acre oak clearcut with an objective of regenerating a mixed oak, white pine, red maple, and white birch stand STO #4.</p>
---	---

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Area – Morrison and Levis Creek Basin

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Morrison and Levis Creek Basin will provide a continuous supply of forest products. Jack pine will continue to be the most common cover type. Jack pine acreage will remain the same, but a wider diversity of age classes will be present. White pine acreage and age class diversity will increase. A greater number of large, old white pine trees will be present. Oak and aspen acreage will remain similar to current levels, but oak acreage may increase as red pine plantations are converted to native cover types. Red maple will become a more common component of oak and white pine stands. Ample hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities will be available.</p> <p>Short-Term Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain a diversity of ages and stand sizes for aspen and aspen-hardwood mix using General Forest Management Prescriptions. 2. Maintain age class distribution of jack pine through harvesting at economic rotations using General Forest Management Prescriptions, realizing that natural conversion to white pine and/or red maple on wet sites will be the tendency. 3. Manage, enhance, and maintain red pine plantations throughout the normal economic and/or biological rotation. Consider conversion to native cover types where appropriate. 4. Plant open fields acquired through land acquisition with tree species suitable to the site. 5. Manage and maintain oak and oak/pine mix through harvesting at economic and/or biological rotations and tend towards a more even age class distribution. 6. Harvest early successional species, using General Forest Management Prescriptions, to connect wetlands west and slightly south of the Dike 17 Wildlife Area with short-term open landscapes. 7. Maintain and enhance a variety of aesthetic and scenic qualities along State Highway 54, County Trunk K, North Settlement Road, and the Native American (Ho-Chunk) community
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>The entire area is managed using “active management” techniques and will be implemented following guidelines in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. The General Forest Management Prescriptions for each appropriate forest type apply to this management area.</p>

Accomplishments 2017

Eight timber sales established. Regeneration and cultural activities included an 80-acre trench and herbicide treatment for site preparation for a future Jack pine planting and a 138 acre and 49 acre bud cap contracts. All three activities meet STO#2. Invasive species control included 77 acres of glossy buckthorn and six acres of black locust.

1216 – This 150-acre sale includes three stands. The first is a Jack pine and white pine stand where the objective is to regenerate a mixed stand STO #2. The second stand is a red pine thinning where the objective is to improve the health and growth of the residual trees STO#3. The third stand is a natural white pine stand being thinned to improve the health and growth of the residual trees STO #2.

1219 – This is a four-stand timber sale consisting of one red pine plantation third thinning, two red and white pine thinnings, and a fourth mixed red, Jack, and white pine thinning. The objective in all four stands is to thin from below to promote the health and growth of the remaining trees. STO#3

1220 – This is a two-stand sale with the first being a Jack and white pine clearcut leaving scattered red pine and other mixed reserve trees. The second stand is a natural red and white pine stand with some oak that will be thinned from below to improve growth and health of the remaining trees. STO #2, STO #3, and STO #7.

1221 – This is a 43-acre Jack pine stand with a mix of other species such as scrub oak and red maple. The objective is to clearcut this stand leaving residual white and red pine and to regenerate Jack pine and other scattered species. STO #2.

1223 – This is a 90-acre Jack pine clearcut where the objective is to regenerate the site back to Jack pine. STO #2.

1224 – This is an 88-acre sale spread across three stands. One part of the sale is a small red pine thinning where the objective is to increase stand health and growth STO #2. In the other two stands the objective is to thin the red and white pine and regenerate the shorter-lived Jack pine, oak, birch, and maple species. STO #2 and #7.

1225 – This sale consists of five stands totaling 120 acres with four of these being mixed white pine stands with a component of Jack pine, oak, red maple, and red oak. The objective in these stands is to thin them removing the poorer quality and the mature trees to increase the growing space and health of the residual trees. STO #3 and #5. The fifth stand is a red pine plantation where the objective is to improve the health and quality of the remaining trees. STO #2

1228 – This is a 45-acre jack pine stand with a mix of older white and red pine along with scrub oak, red maple, and white birch. The goal is to regenerate the shorter-lived species while thinning and retaining the longer lived pine species. STO # 2, #5, and #7

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Area – Robinson Creek Basin

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Robinson Creek Basin will provide a continuous supply of forest products. White pine will continue to be the most common cover type, with an increase in acreage, age class diversity, and in the presence of large, older trees. Oak acreage will increase slightly and will have a wider diversity of age classes. Both the oak and white pine cover types will benefit from the conversion of red pine plantations to native cover types. Red maple will become a more common component of oak and white pine stands. Aspen, jack pine, and tamarack stands will be present, but in small numbers. Ample hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities will be available.</p> <p>Short-Term Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain a diversity of ages and stand sizes for aspen and aspen-hardwood mix using General Forest Management Prescriptions. 2. Maintain age class distribution of jack pine through harvesting at economic rotations using General Forest Management Prescriptions realizing that natural conversion to white pine and/or red maple on wet sites will be the tendency. 3. Manage, enhance, and maintain red pine plantations throughout the normal economic and/or biological rotation. Consider conversion to native cover types where appropriate. 4. Plant open fields acquired through acquisition with tree species suited for the site. 5. Manage and maintain oak and oak/pine mix through harvesting at economic and/or biological rotations and tend towards a more even age class distribution. 6. Manage red oak on dry mesic sites on an economic and/or biological rotation for maximum quality and quantity of timber. Regenerate stands with the highest red oak component possible given that red maple or white pine may out compete oak.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>The entire area is managed using “active management” techniques and will be implemented following guidelines in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. The General Forest Management Prescriptions for each appropriate forest type apply to this management area.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2017</p>	<p>Five timber sales were established. Invasive species control included half an acre of garlic mustard.</p> <p>1217 – This sale included two stands. The first is a 27-acre red pine thinning where the objective is to thin from below to increase the growth and health of the dominant and co-dominant trees. The second sale is a clearcut to regenerate white pine and red maple. STO #3</p> <p>1218 – This is a four-stand sale of which one of the stands is in the forest production area. This is a 37-acre red pine plantation that has been thinned once. The goal is to improve the health and growth through a thinning from below. STO #3.</p> <p>1222 – This is a clearcut of a 62-acre Jack and white pine stand. The Jack pine is of poor quality and the objective is to move the stand to more white pine. STO #2</p>

	<p>1226 – This 140-acre sale consists of two red pine plantations second thinnings and one aspen stand. In the pine plantations, the goal is to improve the health and vigor of the stand STO#3. In the aspen stand the goal is to release the aspen by removing scattered oak and pine STO#1.</p> <p>1229 – This 79-acre sale consists of two red pine plantations and one white pine stand. All three stands are being thinned to promote the growth and health of the residual trees. STO #3 and #5.</p>
--	---

Land Management Areas

Habitat Management Area – Jack Pine Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Establish a relatively even distribution of age classes dominated by jack pine, with mixed areas of red pine and scrub oak. Maintain some areas primarily for their prairie/barrens associated plants and animals, while managing other areas for continuous mill products. Diversity in tree density and age class will provide continuous mill product and critical habitat for barrens associated plants and animals.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convert red pine plantations to jack pine or a mix of jack pine, red pine, and scrub oak at rotation. 2. Maintain jack pine component on all sites except those designated and maintained in a treeless, grassy condition. 3. Protect, maintain, and increase barrens vegetation in designated areas with specific emphasis on rare plants. 4. Protect, maintain, and increase barrens habitat associated animals, with specific emphasis on rare birds, invertebrates, and reptiles. 5. Increase connection between patches of barrens vegetation.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively manage red pine stands primarily through thinning. Prior to and/or at rotation, use herbicide and/or prescribed fire to reduce oak component where necessary for site preparation, and to stimulate and improve barrens vegetation near stand edges and within smaller stands. 2. Actively manage jack pine stands primarily through clearcutting, using a shifting mosaic methodology which distributes harvests throughout the area to provide a wide age class distribution. Use a variety of regeneration techniques such as natural, direct seeding, planting, seed trees, and prescribed fire. 3. Identify and designate high quality barrens vegetation sites to be maintained as permanent openings of variable size. Attempt to dovetail these sites with areas where dry soils make it difficult to grow/regenerate trees (lowest site index) and where rare species are concentrated. These sites may be incorporated into the Karner Blue Butterfly Management Plan. Periodically use prescribed fire, mechanical brushing, and selective use of herbicides using

	<p>DNR guidelines to minimize impacts on sensitive species.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify high quality barrens vegetation sites to be maintained in conjunction with timber production. These sites may be incorporated into the Karner Blue Butterfly Management Plan. Use existing DNR screening guidance to minimize impacts on sensitive species. Mechanical brushing, selective use of herbicide, and prescribed fire could be potentially useful management tools for improving understory species diversity as well as site preparation for regeneration at rotation. When planting, use variable densities and techniques to promote patchiness of variable sizes that will maintain some openings within some stands as they mature. Use timber harvesting, brushing, and selected herbicides along roadsides and between stands to develop vegetative corridors and to maintain or increase width of open areas. Consider augmenting species diversity with seed collected from nearby areas that would provide host plants and nectar sources for rare species maintenance and dispersal.
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	<p>No timber sales in 2017. One 42 acre trenching and herbicide treatment to promote Jack pine regeneration STO#2. One 27 acre bud capping treatment to protect Jack pine regeneration STO#2. One prescribed burn totaling 54 acres STO #1 and #3. Invasive species control included 42 acres of spotted knapweed, thistles and crown vetch and 37 acres of glossy buckthorn. Additionally 21 acres of miscellaneous woody species were treated to promote barrens vegetation ASRMP #6.</p>

Land Management Areas

Habitat Management Area – Dike 17 Wildlife Habitat Management Area

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>Short- and Long-Term Management Objectives (50-100 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide approximately 5,000 acres of high quality, ecologically functional grass, shrub, barrens and wetland habitats for waterfowl, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and a variety of endangered, threatened, special concern, and rare species, such as the Karner blue butterfly, Northern Harrier, Whooping Crane, American Bittern, Black Meadow Hawk, Blandings turtle, and frosted elfin. Provide a protected resting, loafing, and nesting area for waterfowl, including the federally endangered Whooping Crane, in balance with providing public use opportunities. Provide opportunities for hunting big game, waterfowl, small game, and upland game birds. Provide trapping opportunities. Provide opportunities for viewing birds and other wildlife, for nature study, and for hiking. Provide opportunities for non-motorized boating and paddling on flowages and ponds.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain established open brush/grass cover type at a maximum height of approximately five feet. Convert and maintain up to 10% of forested sites to open brush/grass cover type. Use aggressive management techniques such as cutting/shearing, timber harvesting, prescribed burning, herbicides, and planting native prairie plants. Retain and maintain all flowages within the management area, unless abandonment, on a case-by-case basis, is deemed appropriate by a multi-resource team. Dike maintenance includes cutting, shearing, mowing, and similar mechanical treatments, repair of rodent or other damage, and repair or replacement of water control structures. Manipulate water levels to provide optimum waterfowl habitat by maintaining pools with a water depth from

	<p>three to six feet, and performing periodic full drawdowns of each pool to promote plant growth approximately every four years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Attempt to establish wild rice in flowages for a renewable food resource for waterfowl and for recreational and cultural gathering. 6. Plant up to 128 acres of food plots that are consistent with forest certification requirements. 7. Maintain a network of primitive or lightly developed roads for management access. 8. Recommend an increase in the acreage open for hunting and other public uses by decreasing the acreage of the wildlife refuge. This is based on a lower number of birds currently migrating compared to when the refuge was first established. Wildlife refuge sizes and boundaries are outside of the scope of this master plan and are designated in Administrative Code. This change is a recommendation only. 9. Maintain at least one parking lot for public access to the area. 10. Maintain public access into the management area by foot travel only. 11. Provide interpretive signs and materials for public information about the management area. 12. Promote wildlife watching and nature study. 13. Evaluate the use of the Dike 17 Wildlife Area observation tower and determine the need for renovation, replacement, or removal.
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	<p>Drawdowns were conducted on four flowages: Big bear, Upper Wilson, Koranda, and Upper Whitetail. Approximately 10 miles of dike was mowed and inspected for damage. Significant holes were patched on the dikes and the water control structures were maintained throughout the season. Beaver damage control is an ongoing focus on all flowages so that proper water levels are maintained. Approximately 57 acres of fields were mowed to remove brush and maintain in grassland cover. All parking lots were mowed and maintained and property signs were replaced as needed. Access roads were also mowed and maintained leading into the fields at Battle Point, Wilson Flowage, Whitetail Flowage, Big and Little Bear Flowages, Tanner and Partridge Crop Flowage. One prescribed burn totaling 300 acres was completed in the spring of 2017 and additional units were prepped for 2018. Eastern Massasauga surveys were also completed. Woody species herbicide control included 1 acre of Black Locust.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Upper Black River

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine in the uplands and maple, yellow birch, oak, and white pine in the lowlands. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. </p>
--	--

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Black River and its major tributaries.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (455 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived tree species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, oak, and other hardwood species through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to "Managed Old-Forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics when retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 4. For the riparian lands along the Black River, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (1,454 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Designate the 1,454 acre Upper Black River State Natural Area
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	No timber sale in 2017. State natural area designated in 2010.

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Arbutus Oaks

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years)</p> <p>Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities • of the site, including the shoreline of Lake Arbutus. 2. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as oak and white pine. 3. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, Standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 4. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management</p> <p>There are no acres in this designation.</p> <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (215 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow old growth and old forest characteristics to develop, using the guidelines in the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics when retention does not present hazards. 3. For the shoreline along Lake Arbutus, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. 4. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 5. Designate the 215 acre Arbutus Oaks State Natural Area.
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	No timber sales in 2017. State Natural Area was designated in 2010.

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Castle Mound Pine Forest

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest on an upland site comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance the natural community for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and red pine. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect multiple scenic, aesthetic, and recreational qualities of the site.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (53 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, red pine, and oak, primarily through natural conversion and thinning. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, red pine, and oak through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 4. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines to manage the scenic, aesthetic, and recreational qualities of the site. 5. Control buckthorn and other invasive plant infestations. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (118 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Designate the 118 acre Castle Mound State Natural Area (91 acres of existing SNA, 27 acres of new SNA).
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	No timber sales in 2017. State natural area was expanded in 2010.

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – East Fork of the Black River

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth pine, mixed hardwoods, and mixed conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic, aesthetic, and recreational qualities of the East Fork of the Black River.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (575 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, oak, and other hardwood species through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within one third of the actively managed area. 4. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees. 5. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics when retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 6. For the riparian lands along the East Fork of the Black River, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (508 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate the 471 acre East Fork of the Black River State Natural Area.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>No timber sales in 2017. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Ketchum Creek Headwaters

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain and enhance a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags to promote old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (284 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine and oak, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine and oak through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the native community management area. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 5. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. 6. Designate 127 acres of the 424 acre Ketchum Creek Pines State Natural Area. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (297 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-commercial forest practices, prescribed fire, and control of invasive species may occur. 2. Designate 297 acres of the 424 acre Ketchum Creek Pines State Natural Area (140 acres of existing SNA).
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>State natural area was designated in 2010.</p> <p>1218 – This is a four-stand timber sale of which a portion of two of the stands are in the Ketchum Creek area. This includes a white pine and a red pine thinning. The goal is to improve the health and vigor of both stands. STMO #1, #2, and #4. SSRMP #2, #3, and #5.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Paradise Valley Pines

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of white pine. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitats and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (595 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structural changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the actively managed area. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 5. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (74 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>No timber sales in 2017.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Peatlands

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain lands that are structurally and functionally diverse, and that collectively feature a spectrum of wetland types and sizes and relatively unaltered hydrology. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect hydrology of sites. 2. Protect hydrology of connected wetland basins, headwater streams, seeps, and other associated hydrologic features. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Maintain current open landscape condition of the sites. 5. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management There are no acres in this designation.</p> <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (1,203 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-commercial harvest, prescribed fire, and control of invasive species may occur. 2. Prohibit moss harvesting to protect peatland habitat and maintain site hydrology. 3. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. 4. Designate the 565 acre Washburn Marsh State Natural Area (298 acres of existing SNA, plus 267 acres of new SNA). 5. Designate a 233 acre portion of the 1,065 acre Starlight Wetlands State Natural Area. This SNA also extends into the Starlight Wetlands Native Community Management Area.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>No activity in 2017. State natural areas were designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Catfish Eddy Terraces

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of large diameter maple, white pine, and mixed hardwood species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species, such as white pine in the uplands and bottomland hardwoods in the lowlands. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Black River and Perry Creek.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (445 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine and other species through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 2. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the actively managed area. 3. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 5. For the riparian lands along the Black River and Perry Creek, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (300 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Designate the 75 acre Catfish Eddy Terraces State Natural Area.
<p>Accomplishments 2017</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2017. Invasive species control included 194 acres of garlic mustard and greater celandine. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p> <p>1215 – This is a large sale made up of five stands. Two are in a forest production area and three are in the Catfish Eddy Terraces. One stand is a fourth thinning on a red pine plantation where the goal is to improve the health and vigor of the older healthy large diameter trees. A second stand is a 32-acre white pine thinning where the goal is to remove all of the mature Jack pine, aspen, and maple and improve the health of the longer lived pine. The third sale is a mixed species thinning where the goal is to favor the healthy longer lived oak and pine and remove the shorter lived aspen, Jack pine, red maple, and birch. ASRMP #1,</p>

	#2, #3, and #5.
--	-----------------

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Robinson/Millston Pines

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth pine, mixed hardwood, and mixed conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of white pine. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian and wetland habitats and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including riparian areas.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (500 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within one third of the actively managed area. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (126 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including the guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones along stream shorelines. 3. Designate the 126 acre Robinson Creek Pines State Natural Area (85 acres of existing SNA, 41 acres of new SNA).
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	No timber sales in 2017. SNA expanded/designated in 2010.

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Settlement Road Pine Swamp

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a small representative example of a structurally and functionally diverse, older forest in both upland and lowland areas that is comprised of old growth pine, oak, and mixed hardwood species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural community for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white and red pine, and white oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities, as well as the water resources of the site.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (43 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and maintain longer-lived species, such as oak (especially white oak), primarily through thinning. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large oak (especially white oak) and pines through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 4. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (113 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>No timber sales in 2017.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Stanton Pines – Converted to forest production in 2017

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain and enhance a large, old white pine forest that is nearing biological rotation and features some characteristics of old growth, including increased structural diversity and coarse woody debris. Harvest selected stands that have reached biological rotation. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older forest • of white pine, including some areas with closed canopy conditions. 2. Improve forest structural diversity with large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitats and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including riparian areas along stream shorelines.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (971 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase white pine primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Manage stands using biological rotation for white pine as described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine through techniques such as thinning and extended rotation. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 5. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones along stream shorelines. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management There are no acres in this designation.</p>
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>This management unit was entirely converted to the Robinson Creek Forest Production Area. This was due to legislation requiring that state forests increase the percentage of their acreage in forest production area. This parcel was selected and went through the public comment process. No comments were received in opposition to this parcel being converted.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Starlight Wetlands

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a relatively extensive area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth pine, mixed hardwood, and mixed conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including riparian areas along stream shorelines.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (818 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine and oak, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine and oak through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the actively managed area. 4. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees. 5. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (832 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones along stream shorelines. 3. Designate an 832 acre portion of the 1,065 acre Starlight Wetlands State Natural Area. This SNA also extends into the Peatlands Native Community Management Area.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>No timber sales in 2017. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Recreation Management Area – Overmeyer Hills

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain and enhance silent sports recreation opportunities within a relatively extensive acreage of older, intact, connected forest that provides aesthetic appeal. Maintain an old forest of red maple, pine, mixed hardwood, and oak species that is structurally and functionally diverse and includes areas of coarse woody debris and standing dead snags.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a system of aesthetically pleasing, sustainable trails for hiking, cross-country skiing and mountain biking that offer opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the forest. 2. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy, un-fragmented forest of longer-lived species such as red maple, red and white pine, and oak on north and east slopes. 3. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old forest characteristics, such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris where appropriate. 4. Protect, manage, and enhance the natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs identified in the Biotic Inventory.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain oak through commercial thinning, timber stand improvement practices, prescribed fire, and other techniques described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large oak and pines through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old forest. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old-Forest. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 4. Conduct forest management activities in ways that minimize visual, noise, and access impacts to recreational users. 5. Implement aesthetic management prescriptions along trails consistent with the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for the Class A Aesthetic Zone. 6. Designate the 379 acre Wildcat Ridge State Natural Area. 7. Control of invasive species may occur. 8. Remove hazard trees to provide a safe setting for recreational users.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>One timber sales in 2017. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p> <p>1218 – This is a four-stand sale of which a portion of two of the stands are in the Overmeyer Hills and a third stand is entirely within this management unit. This includes two red pine plantations and one white pine plantation, all being thinned to promote the growth and health of the remaining trees. STMO #2 and ASRMP #2, #4, and #5.</p>

Land Management Areas

Recreation Management Area – Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain the area as an attractive and safe setting for intensive types of recreational use, such as camping, picnicking, water sports, trail activities, and nature interpretation. In forested areas, maintain a mixed forest dominated by older, larger trees.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide opportunities for safe, high quality, modern, intensive recreational uses featuring modern camping, primitive camping, day uses, nature interpretation/education, and a variety of trail uses during different seasons. 2. Favor longer-lived, larger tree species such as white and red pine and oak species
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct forest management activities at times and in ways that will minimize visual, noise, and access impacts to recreational users. 2. Implement aesthetic management prescriptions along trails consistent with the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for the Class A Aesthetic Zone. 3. Control invasive species at campgrounds and day use areas. 4. Provide and maintain screening between campsites using native vegetation. 5. Remove hazard trees to provide a safe setting for recreational users.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2017</i></p>	<p>Hazard trees removed from all three traditional campgrounds ASRMP #5. Garlic mustard and greater celandine were treated ASRMP #3</p>

Recreation Management - Campgrounds and Day use areas

Recreation management accomplishments from previous years shown in italics and information pertinent to this year is in bold

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide modern, rustic, primitive, and equestrian camping opportunities. 2. Provide high quality opportunities for day uses such as picnicking, swimming, hiking, and biking. 3. Provide opportunities for boating and paddling on the Black River and its tributaries, and non-motorized boating on flowages and ponds within Dike 17. 4. Provide opportunities for visitors to gain a better understanding of the natural resources, scenic amenities, and native communities found in the forest.
<p>Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of electric campsites at the Castle Mound Campground, up to a maximum of 28 sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All six sites were upgraded from 30 amp to 50 amp in 2011.</i> • <i>Eight additional sites were upgraded with electricity in 2013</i> 2. Construct a new office and a new shop building at the Castle Mound Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The shop project was completed in 2012.</i> • <i>The office was completed in 2013.</i> 3. Evaluate the opportunity to convert the existing office building into an ADA accessible cabin for the Castle Mound Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We were unable to secure funding for the project and the building was auctioned off and moved in 2013.</i> 4. Eliminate vault toilets at the Castle Mound Campground and replace with a modern shower and restroom facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of this project began in late 2016 with completion expected in the Spring of 2017. 5. Install an ADA accessible parking area and walkway at the Pigeon Creek Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Completed in 2011</i> 6. Upgrade nature trail and interpretive signage and add an informational kiosk at the East Fork Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress on this objective 7. Install a manure storage facility and a woodshed, and improve directional and information signage at the Equestrian Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The master plan was amended in 2013 to convert the horse camp into a group camp. The conversion occurred in June of 2013.</i> 8. Replace or remove the vault toilets at the Group Camp (a restroom will still be available in the indoor group facility). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A project has been submitted to replace both vault toilets with a single vault toilet building.</i> 9. Evaluate the need for an expanded parking area at Pigeon Creek after Robinson Beach is closed to public vehicle access.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use levels have not created a need to increase parking
--	--

Recreation Management

Overmeyer Hills

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Provide a system of aesthetically pleasing, sustainable trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and Horse back riding that offer opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the forest.
Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install electrical service at the warming shelter located at the Smrekar Trail parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in 2010 2. Abandon the existing well along the Central Loop trail system and install a new well and accessible hand pump at the trailhead located at the Smrekar Trail parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in 2010 3. Construct a new storage facility at the Smrekar Trail parking lot and abandon the storage facility at the Wildcat Trail parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in 2013

Recreation Management

Motorized Trails

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Provide opportunities to ride snowmobiles, ATVs, and motorcycles as part of a regional trail network. Trails will be sustainable, well-maintained, and will maximize safety and minimize the impact on sensitive areas, water resources, and other recreational uses.
Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments	<p>Property-Wide</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrade the majority of the motorized trail surface by crowning, installing culverts to divert water, and hauling in aggregate rock materials where needed. Work will be pursued as state and federal waterway/wetland permits are approved and funding is secured; all wetland protection requirements will be met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All state and federal wetland permits have been secured • All wetland crossings have been upgraded. • Three capital development projects were completed in 2017 along with a fourth section completed as part of a graveling contract. This included 1.1 miles on the north portion of the Wildcat loop, approximately 1 mile south of seventh street. A 1.1 mile project south of Battlepoint road and a 2.2 mile project north of Highway 54.

**Management Activities,
Prescriptions, and
Accomplishments -
continued**

Northern Trails

1. Eliminate horse access on the motorized trail system, except for 1,500 feet between Seils Road and Cemetery Road, to improve trail safety and minimize user conflicts.
 - *Completed 2010*

Castle Mound Trails

1. Develop a use designation on the Castle Mound trail consistent with the adjoining Jackson County motorized trail. Currently ATV use is allowed during summer months only. Use designation may be re-evaluated and changed in the future.
 - *Use designation is consistent with Jackson County's trail system*
2. Currently, a snowmobile only trail travels along Highway 12 on private land, enters the state forest just north of Castle Mound Road, and travels directly to the 7th Street parking lot. If this private trail should become designated for ATV use in the future, the state forest's adjacent 0.1 mile section would also be designated for ATV use.
 - *This section was added to the ATV trails in the spring of 2016.*

Wildcat Trails

General

1. Close a 1.8 mile loop of snowmobile only trail to all public motorized access to eliminate conflict between users in the Overmeyer Hills Recreation Area.
 - *Completed in 2010*
2. Re-route a short section of trail just south of Stanton Creek Road to address erosion issues. The re-routed trail will be located either on state forest land, or, if the opportunity exists in the future, routed onto Cut-Across Road. Moving the trail to Cut-Across Road requires either acquisition of the town road or having the Town of Millston officially designate the road as a route.
 - *Rerouted on state land in 2011*
3. Increase the parking area along North Settlement Road by up to 25%.
 - **Not completed as there has not been a need for more parking**

Long-term Management Prescriptions for the Wildcat Loop

When the Millston Loop is authorized for use, the following management prescriptions will be followed:

- *Millston loop option was soundly rejected by the town of Millston residents in an August 2010 town meeting.*
 - *This option is no longer being considered and therefore Wildcat loop will remain open*
1. Close a 5.4 mile section of motorized trail, west of Shale Road and south of Kling Road, to all public motorized access.
 2. Close a 2.5 mile section of trail south of the snowmobile only trail to ATV use, but retain the trail as a designated snowmobile trail.
 3. Restore significant wetland crossings by removing fill, removing culverts, and allowing natural water flow to occur.
 - *All wetland crossings have been upgraded*

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Retain access for state forest operations on sections of the trail closed to public motorized use. 5. If three years after the approval of the master plan by the Natural Resources Board lapse before the Millston Loop is authorized, and trail conditions on the Wildcat Loop degrade significantly, then the appropriate trail improvements, including wetland crossing upgrades and trail base improvements, will be implemented. If major improvements are implemented on the Wildcat Loop, the Millston Loop will no longer be considered, although a legal connector to the Jackson County ATV trails will still be an objective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 1.1 mile section of trail on the northern portion of the loop was graveled in the fall of 2017. <p>Millston Loop</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in and coordinate the cooperative effort to identify and authorize an ATV trail that connects the Town of Millston to the existing Jackson County ATV trails leading to Black River Falls. 2. Authorize approximately 1.1 miles of existing snowmobile trail south of Millston for ATV use. This section of trail will only be improved and opened for ATV use after all of the various landowners, potentially including the Town of Millston, Jackson County, Union Pacific Railroad, and the Department of Transportation (DOT), identify and authorize segments contributing to the new trail connector. Trail improvements will be coordinated in cooperation with the landowners identified above. <p>Short-term Management Prescriptions for the Wildcat Loop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due to inability to reach long term goals, the short term prescriptions were only in place until the wetland crossings at the Wildcat loop are improved. All wetland crossings were upgraded in 2015. The only work left to complete is to place finished gravel over the crossing areas and areas of upgraded base.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain 7.9 miles open to motorized access for ATVs and snowmobiles. 2. Open the trail from the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day for the summer ATV season. The trail will be open for the full winter season. 3. Install gates at access points to enforce seasonal and temporary closures. 4. Trail conditions will be monitored more frequently, especially following precipitation events, with temporary trail closures implemented as needed. 5. Trail maintenance (i.e. grooming) will occur at current levels. 6. No significant trail improvement projects will be initiated except for safety reasons or if the trail becomes impassable. 7. The Wildcat Loop (7.9 miles) will be managed with the prescriptions above until the Millston Loop is authorized for use. After the Millston Loop is authorized, the Wildcat Loop will be closed to ATV use and managed according to the long-term management prescriptions below (2.5 miles will be retained as a designated snowmobile trail).

Real Estate Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>The master plan describes goals, policies and actions for the following real estate activities in Chapter 2, pages 114 and 115:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Boundary Expansion • Real Estate Acquisition Policies • Aides in Lieu of Taxes • Acquisition Near Municipal Areas • Additional Inclusion of State Lands in Manitowish Waters • Future Boundary Adjustment Process • Easements, Access Permits and Land Use Agreements
<p>Accomplishments 2017</p>	<p>No purchases occurred in 2017. Two land use agreements were entered into with private individuals. A construction easement was entered into, to facilitate the ATC powerline construction project.</p>

Wildlife Management Plan

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>The wildlife management program on the Black River State Forest focuses on maintaining and enhancing habitat and assessing the population status of the important game, nongame, and listed species.</p>
<p>Appropriate Management Activities and Prescriptions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All non-forested wetlands, including various poor fens, sedge meadows, shrub-carr, rich fen, and open bogs will be protected. 2. Sharp-tailed Grouse areas will be maintained and created in a shifting mosaic through the use of normal forest management practices. Dike 17 Wildlife Area will act as a core site, with larger clearcuts acting as corridors and temporary habitat areas, until these cut units regenerate. In certain situations, burning, scarification, and delayed planting may be incorporated into these cuts to delay regeneration and offer a few extra years of Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat 3. Twenty flowages, specifically managed for wildlife habitat, exist on the Black River State Forest. These will be maintained; however, there may be situations, on a case-by-case basis, that warrant abandonment of an individual flowage. The determination for abandonment will be a joint decision between wildlife, fisheries, engineers, and forestry staff. No new flowage construction is planned 4. Wild rice bed establishment will be attempted on four flowages within the Dike 17 Wildlife Area on the Black River State Forest. 5. Populations of important game species will be monitored through annual surveys at the local or regional level.

Accomplishments 2017

The following wildlife surveys were completed on the BRSF: black bear bait station transect surveys, wolf pack monitoring, carnivore track surveys, upland game brood, and whitetail deer doe and fawn counts. Eighteen forest openings and totaling 16 acres and five logging roads totaling 5 acres were mowed for wildlife habitat. In addition, approximately 11 miles of public access roads were mowed. Five acres of new forest openings were re-seeded for wildlife habitat.

Fisheries Management Plan

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

Water resources in the Black River State Forest provide habitat for a range of fish communities. Management goals and activities for these waters vary by type of water and angling potential. The three main water resources within the forest are warm water streams, warm water lakes, and cold water streams. Management for each type of water resource is described below:

Warm Water Streams

- Maintain the health of waters on the • Black River State Forest and their fishery potential.
- Provide quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities (where applicable).

Warm Water Lakes

- Maintain the health of warm water lakes and their fishery potential.
- Provide a quality harvest when and where applicable.
- Improve access, especially for those with physical disabilities.
- Improve habitat conditions for those lakes with fishery potential.

Cold Water Streams

- Maintain self-sustaining trout fisheries.
- Maintain the health of these waters and their fishery potential.

Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments

Warm Water Streams

1. Continue to conduct electro-fishing and netting surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols and provide results to the public.
2. Continue muskellunge stocking in the Black River.
3. Conduct beaver control as necessary by limiting dams that slow water flow, impede fish migration, and increase water temperatures and sedimentation.

Warm Water Lakes

1. Continue to conduct electro-fishing and netting surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols and provide results to the public.
2. Monitor winter water chemistry for those lakes with a fishery to determine when winterkill occurs.
3. Continue trout stocking in the Oxbow Ponds.

Cold Water Streams

1. Continue to conduct electro-fishing surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols and make results available to the public.

	2. Conduct beaver control as necessary by limiting dams that slow water flow, impede fish migration, and increase water temperatures and sedimentation.
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	<p>STOCKING Oxbow Ponds – 941 adult rainbow trout, 535 adult brook trout Robinson Beach Pond – 500 adult rainbow trout Robinson Creek – 1307 adult rainbow trout, 3448 small fingerling brown trout</p> <p>NONWADABLE STREAMS (RIVER) Surveys 15 miles lower Black River and 1.6 miles upper Black River (upper Black includes segments of river between the Hatfield and Black River Falls dams).</p> <p>LAKE SURVEYS Townline flowage – 2017 spring fyke netting survey conducted</p> <p>WADABLE STREAM SURVEYS Levis Creek</p>

Road Management

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>There are several types of road classifications outlined in NR 44.07(3). The classifications reflect a range of development and maintenance standards. Road classifications include primitive, lightly-developed, moderately developed, and fully developed. Each Department managed road is assigned a development classification as part of the road inventory project described above. Management of lands along the roads within the Black River State Forest will reflect the management objectives for the specified area classifications. All road right-of-ways (66 feet) will continue to be controlled and maintained by their current operator (state, county, or town). The Department managed roadways within the Black River State Forest will be maintained in part according to the following requirements from the Best Management Practices for water quality:</p>
<i>Accomplishments 2017</i>	<p>Little Bear road was graveled for 0.8 miles. Battlepoint road received several loads of gravel to address problem areas.</p>